

Claims:

1 1. An event announcement method for a computing device that has an event
2 announcement device coupled to the computing device, the computing device executing a control
3 program, the method comprising:

4 determining the type of the event announcement device coupled to the computing device;
5 and

6 generating a predetermined event announcement signal based on the determined type of
7 event announcement device.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising connecting the event announcement
2 device to the computing device using a stereo jack.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises an external speaker separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and a
3 set of headphones both connected to the stereo jack of the computing device and wherein the
4 generation of the event announcement signal further comprises generating a sound signal by the
5 external speaker.

1 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the connecting further comprises electrically
2 connecting the external speaker to a first channel of the stereo jack and electrically connecting
3 the set of headphones to a second channel of the stereo jack.

1 5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises an in-ear headphone separate from the speaker internal to the computing device
3 plugged into the stereo jack and wherein generating the event announcement signal further
4 comprises generating a sound signal by the internal speaker.

1 6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a set of headphones separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and
3 wherein generating the event announcement signal further comprises generating a sound signal
4 by the internal speaker.

1 7. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and wherein

3 generating the event announcement signal further comprises generating a sound signal by the
4 internal speaker.

1 8. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer and a set of headphones separate from the speaker internal to the computing
3 device and wherein generating the event announcement signal further comprises generating a
4 sound signal generated by the internal speaker.

1 9. The method of Claim 2, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer and an in-ear headphone separate from the speaker internal to the computing
3 device and wherein generating the event announcement signal further comprises generating a
4 sound signal generated by the internal speaker.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the event further comprises an incoming
2 telephone call.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the event further comprises an incoming VoIP
2 telephone call.

1 12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the event further comprises an incoming
2 electronic mail message.

1 13. The method of Claim 1, wherein the event further comprises an incoming page.

1 14. An event announcement system for a computing device, comprising:
2 a computing device;
3 an event announcement device coupled to the computing device; and
4 a control program being executed by the computing device that controls the event
5 announcement of the computing device, the control program further comprising instructions that
6 determine the type of the event announcement device coupled to the computing device and
7 instructions that generate a predetermined event announcement signal based on the determined
8 type of event announcement device.

1 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the computing device further comprises a stereo
2 jack into which the event announcement device is coupled.

1 16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises an external speaker separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and a

3 set of headphones both connected to the stereo jack of the computing device and wherein the
4 event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the speaker.

1 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the speaker is electrically connected to a first
2 channel of the stereo jack and wherein the set of headphones is electrically connected to a second
3 channel of the stereo jack.

1 18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises an in-ear headphone separate from the speaker internal to the computing device
3 plugged into the stereo jack and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a
4 sound signal generated by the internal speaker.

1 19. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a set of headphones separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and
3 wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the
4 internal speaker.

1 20. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer separate from the speaker internal to the computing device and wherein the
3 event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by the internal speaker.

1 21. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer and a set of headphones separate from the speaker internal to the computing
3 device and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by
4 the internal speaker.

1 22. The system of Claim 15, wherein the event announcement device further
2 comprises a buzzer and an in-ear headphone separate from the speaker internal to the computing
3 device and wherein the event announcement signal further comprises a sound signal generated by
4 the internal speaker.

1 23. The system of Claim 15, wherein the stereo jack further comprises a portion
2 which leaves an internal speaker of the computing device connected and a second portion which
3 connects an external event announcement device to the computing device so that both the
4 internal speaker and the external event announcement device are capable of generating the
5 predetermined event announcement signal.

1 24. The system of Claim 14, wherein the computing device further comprises a
2 personal digital assistant.

1 25. The system of Claim 14, wherein the event further comprises an incoming
2 telephone call.

1 26. The system of Claim 14, wherein the event further comprises an incoming VoIP
2 telephone call.

1 27. The system of Claim 14, wherein the event further comprises an incoming
2 electronic mail message.

1 28. The system of Claim 14, wherein the event further comprises an incoming page.

1 29. An event announcement device, comprising:
2 a stereo jack having a first channel and a second channel;
3 a first event announcement element connected to the first channel of the stereo jack; and
4 a second event announcement element connected to the second channel of the stereo jack
5 wherein a signal is provided to the first event announcement element that is separate from a
6 signal provided to the second event announcement element.